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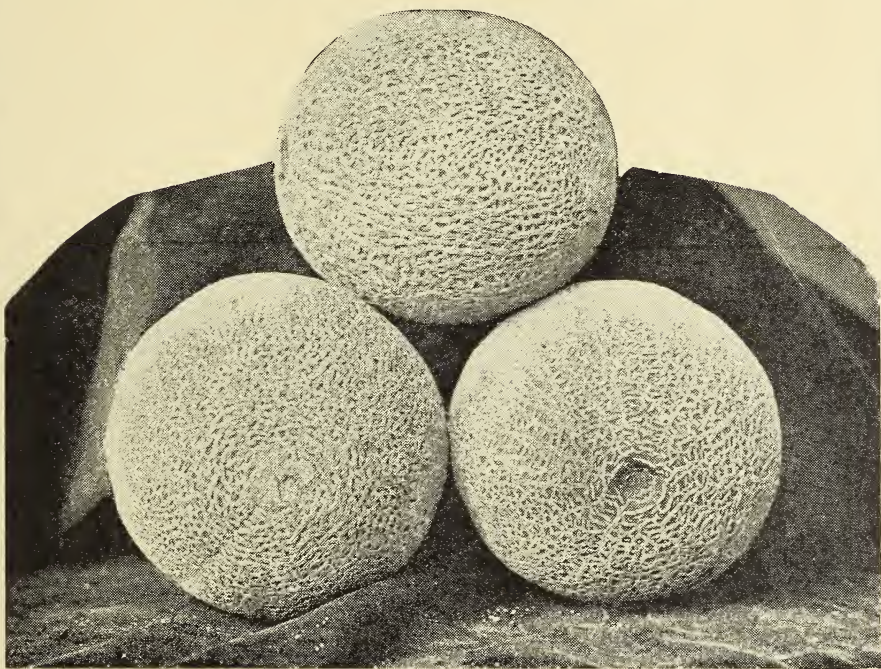
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# Descriptive List

OF

Cantaloupe and Other  
Vine Seeds—Season 1919



**Our Salmon-Tinted Rocky Fords.**

Issued by

Rocky Ford Cantaloupe Seed Growers' Co.

GARWOOD & WOODSIDE, Props.

ROCKY FORD, COLO.

*GROWERS OF HIGH GRADE VINE SEEDS*

# Information for Purchasers

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Please Read This Page Carefully



**WE PAY THE TRANSPORTATION CHARGES.** At the prices quoted in this Catalog we deliver the Seed at your station by Mail or Express. Our terms are strictly cash with order (unless satisfactory arrangements have been made beforehand). Remittances should be made by Postoffice or Express Money Order, Bank Draft or Registered Letter. Amounts of less than \$1 may be sent in Postage Stamps. If personal checks are sent they must be certified by your banker. We will ship seed C. O. D. by Express, provided 10 per cent of the amount of the purchase price accompanies the order.

**USE OUR ORDER SHEET,** carefully filling out the blank spaces at the top, for shipping directions. Use one line for each kind of seed ordered.

Always carry out the price of each item.

Keep a copy of your order. (This is very important.)

We exercise the utmost care in filling orders, striving to be correct in every detail; yet in the press of business, errors sometimes occur, in which event we wish to be promptly notified of the fact, and will make such corrections as will be satisfactory.

**WHEN TO ORDER.** We strongly advise our customers to send in their orders immediately upon receipt of this Catalog, as they will then have the seeds on hand when they need them, and avoid the unnecessary delay often caused by the rush of the busy season. It is advisable to order while our stock is complete.

**MARKET GARDENERS AND LARGE PLANTERS** should write for special prices, stating variety and quantity required.

**WARRANTEES.** Seeds of the best quality will often fail through improper treatment, such as planting the seed too deep or too shallow, in soil that is too wet or too dry, or planting when the soil is so cold that the seed is apt to decay. The young plants are liable to various accidents. Cold or dry air may check their growth or destroy them. Insects above or below the ground may attack them, and many other contingencies may arise to prevent the very best seeds from giving satisfaction. However, the Cantaloupe Seed that we send out accompanied by our certificate is guaranteed to have been grown from selected stock seed and saved from fields grown exclusively for seed purposes, from stock that shows true to variety type, from well-netted, fully-matured, standard-size melons of the best seed qualities; that the seed was saved before frost, was hand cut, thoroughly washed and cured, all light seed fanned out, and of standard germination. If the seed should not prove as represented, upon reasonable, well-established claims, we will refund the cost of the seed, but further than this we will not be in any way responsible for the crop. Our seeds are sold only with the above understanding.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY.** As to our financial and business standing, we refer to The Rocky Ford National Bank, The First National Bank of Rocky Ford, The "Packer" of Kansas City, The "Produce News" of New York. Always enclose a two-cent stamp when writing for reference.

## Rocky Ford Cantaloupe Seed Growers' Co.

GARWOOD & WOODSIDE, Proprietors.

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Please Remember That the Prices Quoted Herein Includes Delivery at Your Station.



# GREETINGS FOR 1919

It is with pleasure that we present herewith our Descriptive List of Cantaloupe and other Vine Seeds for season of 1919.

Please read the descriptions carefully and note our prices. While there has been tremendous advances in prices in every line, and a great increase in the cost of production, please note that we have but few changes in prices, and on some varieties our prices are lower than heretofore.

Starting a few years ago with a small acreage our business has increased so rapidly that the past season we grew a large acreage of cantaloupes for seed, and with a production of several thousand pounds will not have enough seed to supply the demand. By October 1st we had sold and booked orders for more than 10,000 pounds of Cantaloupe Seed, all being sold in two states.

To our friends and customers we need no introduction. To those who are not acquainted with us in a business way we would state that our Mr. Garwood has been identified with the cantaloupe business here since the start of the industry twenty-three years ago; has had experience as a grower, inspector, field superintendent and as a SEEDSMAN for the past twenty years. Mr. Woodside for years has been recognized as one of the most successful and careful seed growers in this district, and has developed two valuable strains of the Rocky Ford cantaloupe. Much of the cantaloupe seed that we offer was grown by Mr. Woodside. That not grown by him was grown and harvested under his personal supervision, which alone is a GUARANTEE of the HIGHEST QUALITY.

Our consistent aim is to make "Quality" the first consideration; next, to make our prices as low as good seed can be sold.

From "grower to grower." Our object is to grow the best seed that can be produced and supply the grower direct, without the seed passing through the hands of several dealers, whereby it often loses its identity. We do not grow seed under contract for seedsmen nor for "Uncle Sam."

Our planting stocks are kept up to the highest standard by systematic selection. Our seed-growing is carried on in the most up-to-date manner. The seed we offer is the best selection from fields grown exclusively for seed purposes; was saved from stock true to type, from well-netted, fully-matured, standard-size melons of the best seed qualities. Our seed was all cut by hand and cured before frost, is thoroughly cleaned, all light seed fanned out and is of the highest germination.

While we don't claim to have the only good seed on the market, we do claim that there is none better than the grade of seed we offer.

Our motto: "BEST SEEDS ONLY, AND A SQUARE DEAL TO ALL."

We want to supply growers who want and appreciate good seed. If after ordering from us you have any cause for complaint, we want you to write us fully at once, as just criticism is an aid to improvement.

Your orders, either large or small, will be appreciated and receive our prompt personal attention.

We will be glad to answer any inquiries for information on subjects pertaining to the cantaloupe business.

We solicit a share of your order for the coming season.

All prices quoted herein includes delivery.

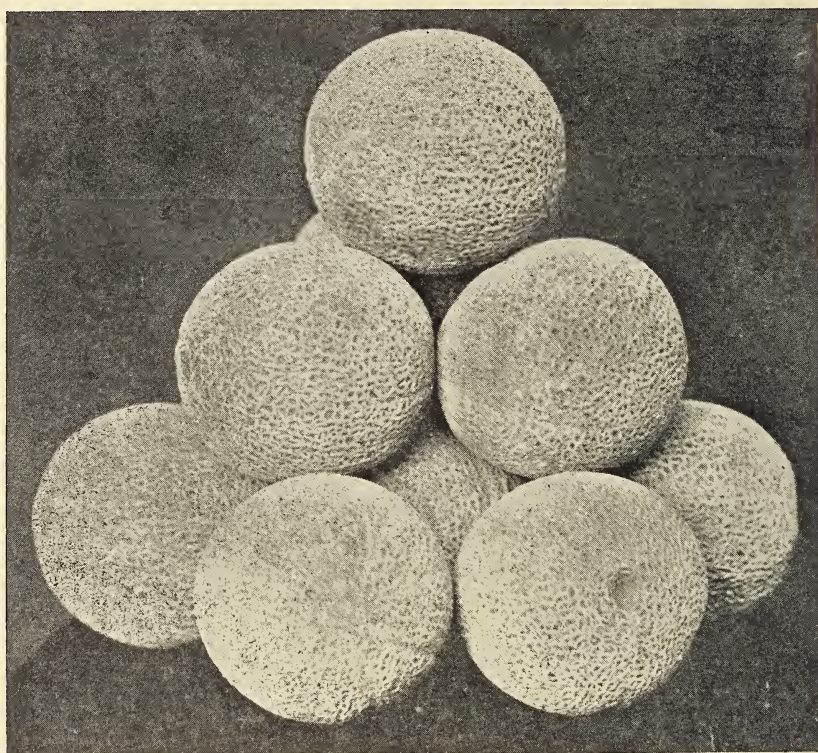
January 1, 1919.

Sincerely yours,

ROCKY FORD CANTALOUPE SEED GROWERS' CO.

Garwood & Woodside, Proprietors.

## SALMON TINTED ROCKY FORD



(This Strain Is Sold Under Our Guarantee.)

This new cantaloupe is highly rust-resistant. Under unfavorable conditions when other strains rust badly the vines of this strain remain green and thrifty, continuing to blossom and set on fruits. The value, owing to this quality, is very great, as in many localities rust often destroys the crop, and when other strains have lost their quality on account of rust, this continues to ripen melons of the highest quality.

It yields a heavy crop, continuing long in bearing, and cannot fail to please.

This new strain is nearly as early as the Eden Gem and very prolific. The melons run very uniform in size. In shape it is a trifle longer than the Eden Gem, practically all run solid net, without any indication of the ribs. The netting is extremely heavy and very light colored when matured. The seed cavity is small. The flesh changes from a deep green near the rind to a rich salmon pink near the seed cavity; fine-grained and very solid, the attractive color of the flesh and the unsurpassed flavor will appeal to the most highly cultivated tastes. Its fine appearance attracts the particular trade and commands the highest market price wherever introduced.

Our Salmon Tint Rocky Ford Cantaloupe is sure a winner. By October 1st we had booked orders for several thousand pounds of this strain for the growers of the Imperial Valley and Turlock districts of California and for growers of the principal growing districts of Arkansas. Some of the leading distributors of California sent representatives here to buy seed, who, after examining all of the fields of the Rocky Ford district, placed their orders with us. This fact alone should convince the most skeptical of the superior quality of the



**SALMON-TINTED ROCKY FORD.—(Continued.)**

seed that we produce. Should any grower interested wish the names of these buyers to substantiate our claims, we will gladly furnish them.

While this strain is already listed under different names, such as Pollock Salmon-Tint, Gold-Lined, etc., we will back up our strain as being as good as any in existence.

While our supply of seed lasts, we offer it at the following prices:

Per oz., 15c; per lb., \$1.50; 10 to 25 lbs., @ \$1.40.

For larger quantities write for prices.

**OUR IMPROVED EDEN GEM CANTALOUPE**

(This Strain Is Sold Under Our Guarantee.)



The Eden Gem is the earliest strain of the "solid-net" Rocky Ford Cantaloupe and one of the very best shippers. It is the leader in most market-growing sections for the main crop.

Our improved strain of Eden Gem is the earliest of its type and as rust-resistant as any yet introduced.

This is the highest development yet attained in the Rocky Ford Cantaloupe, both in netting and rust-resistant qualities.

It produces vigorous vines and is extremely prolific. The melons run very uniform in size, nearly all standards and over 90 per cent solid net. The netting is very heavy and dense, which with the thick flesh, makes it an ideal long-distance shipper. The flesh varies from green to light golden in color, is fine-grained and very solid; the flavor is unsurpassed.

Our stock seed has been selected for years along certain lines and we now have a strain that is far superior to the original.

During the past seasons we have sold thousands of pounds of our improved Eden Gem seed, which has been planted in the principal growing sections of the country, and although some seasons were most unfavorable ones in many districts, yet we have not received one complaint on this strain of seed; but, on the other hand, have received numerous letters from growers of many different states, stating that our Improved Eden Gem was the most satisfactory cantaloupe that they had ever grown, and asking if we could furnish as good seed for the coming season. "Our answer" is: We believe that we can even furnish better seed, as each year we make a greater effort to improve our seed, and feel

**OUR IMPROVED EDEN GEM CANTALOUPE.—(Continued.)**

sure that our Improved strain of the Eden Gem will satisfy the most particular planters.

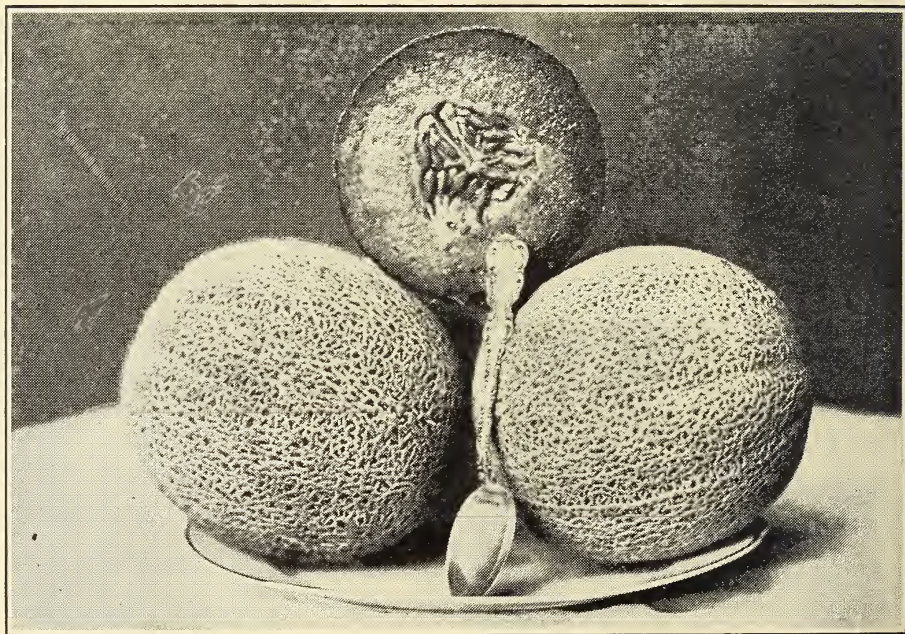
We have already received orders for hundreds of pounds from associations and growers in the leading cantaloupe-growing sections of the country.

No matter where you are located or what strain you have been planting, we will put up our Improved strain of Eden Gem against all others as one of the very best all-around green-meated market cantaloupes grown.

We have but one grade of this seed. It was saved from first-class melons in every particular. We make but two cuttings from our seed field. We offer select seed of our Improved Eden Gem at the following prices: Per oz., 15c; per lb., \$1.50; 10 to 25 lbs., @ \$1.40 per lb. Associations using larger quantities write for prices.

**WOODSIDE'S IMPERIAL GEM**

(This Strain Is Sold Under Our Guarantee.)

**THIS IS THE BEST EARLY CANTALOUPE INTRODUCED TO DATE.**

In this cantaloupe we have a great improvement in the once-popular Early Watter's strain. With many years selecting and improving, Mr. Woodside has succeeded in perfecting the best early strain of the Rocky Ford Cantaloupe in existence.

In appearance and general habits it is similar to the Early Watters. However, the two great objectionable points in the Watters—the tendency of the vines to blight and the large seed cavity in the melon—have been practically eliminated in this improved strain. It is as easy as the Watters, almost as rust-resistant as the Pollock strains and nearly as thick fleshed, which makes it an ideal shipping melon.

The plants are strong, vigorous growers from the start. This strain is extremely prolific, the first setting often showing twelve to fifteen marketable melons to the hill.



The netting covers the entire melon and is almost as heavy as that of the Eden Gem. It matures from a week to ten days earlier.

We class it as a green-fleshed melon, but the color will vary somewhat.

The flavor is similar to the original Rocky Ford, which many contend was the "sweetest of all."

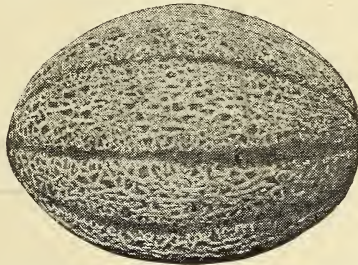
Our observation has been that the vines of the early varieties of cantaloupes seem more easily affected by fungus diseases than the vines of the later varieties; especially is it true in sections where there is much rain during the maturing season, and in irrigated sections where too much water is used; but in sections where these conditions are not too marked, and an early melon is desired, this is the most valuable of the Rocky Ford strains. In this district, for years past, the Early Cantaloupe has invariably proven the "money-maker" for the grower.

Do not compare this strain with the "Early Watters," as it is a great improvement over that variety, both in its rust-resistant and shipping qualities.

One grower wrote us that he had more netted melons on two acres of this strain at the time than he had on fifty acres of the Pollock strains planted at the same time.

Do not fail to give it a trial. Our prices for select seed are as follows:

Per oz., 15c; lb., \$1.50; 5 lbs. @ \$1.40; 10 lbs. to 25 lbs. @ \$1.25 per lb. For larger quantities write for prices.



Salmon-Fleshed Melon. Burrell Gem.

(Locally Known as the Burrell Gem, Osage Gem, Ordway Pink Meat, Pink Queen, Etc.)

This melon is of recent introduction, but has become nearly as popular in many markets as the Rocky Ford strains.

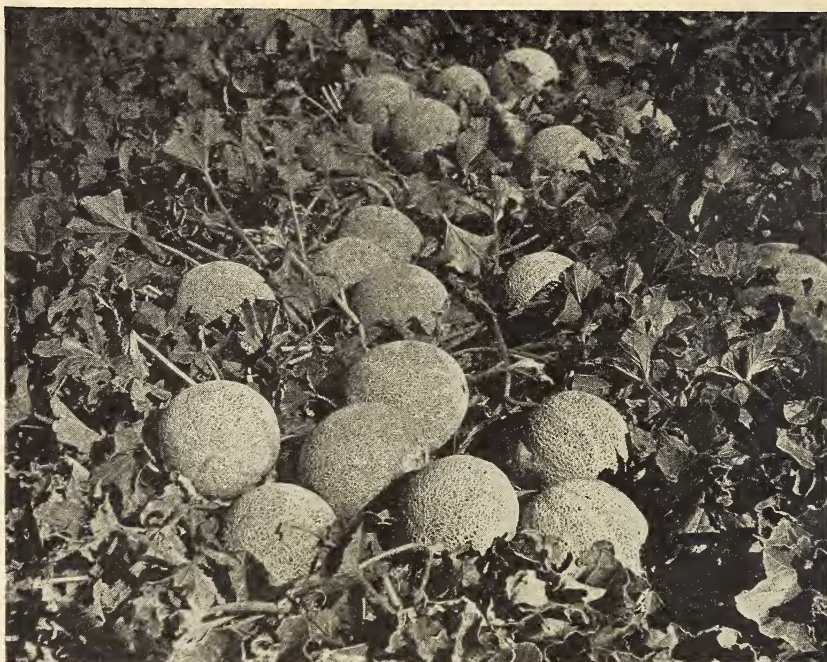
The melon is larger than the "Rocky Ford," averaging about 6 inches in length and 4½ to 5 inches in diameter, with well-defined ribs, heavily netted, with a distinct stripe between. (However, our selection shows many solid-net melons.) The flesh is a rich salmon color and very fine-grained. The seed cavity is unusually small, which accounts for its superior shipping qualities. Nearly half of the shipments from this district are of this variety. The melons are wrapped in attractive pink wrappers and packed in one-layer crates holding from twelve to fifteen melons.

Until recent years the acreage planted for market outside of this district was limited, but during past seasons there was a considerable acreage planted in other sections of the country with splendid results. We have had very favorable reports from sections in the East and South, where during dry seasons they did fine.

However, we feel it our duty to warn the growers in districts where the rainfall is excessive that they are taking great chances planting much of an acreage of this variety, as with excessive moisture the vines not only blight, but the melons crack open as well. Where the above conditions do not prevail it is a very profitable melon to plant. Our seed of this variety is as pure as can be obtained anywhere.

We offer select seed at the following prices: Per oz., 15c; per lb., \$1.50; 10 to 25 lbs. @ \$1.25 per lb.

Associations and growers using larger quantities, write for special prices.



**Our New Golden-Meated Rocky Ford Cantaloupe.**

## OUR NEW GOLDEN MEATED ROCKY FORD CANTALOUPE

This finest of all new cantaloupes is a hybrid and evidently a cross between the Burrell Gem and the Netted Rock, as it has the salmon flesh and small seed cavity of the former, but has the heavy netting, rust-resistant and keeping qualities of the latter. While they class it as a solid-net cantaloupe, a small percentage shows the stripe characteristic of the Burrell Gem, and a few run rather oblong in shape. It will require further selection to obtain the most desirable type. A few during the early part of the season show the Burrell Gem tendency to crack on ends with excess moisture.

It matures just a little later than our Eden Gem. The vines are vigorous, rust-resistant and prolific bearers. The most of the fruit is heavily netted and runs fairly uniform in size. The flesh is firm, fine-grained and of a beautiful golden color. The seed cavity averages smaller than in any of the solid net strains. The melon has a sweet, spicy flavor that appeals to all who have had the good fortune to try them. When thoroughly established, we predict that the Golden Meated Rocky Ford will prove the most satisfactory market melon ever introduced. We urge every market grower to try out this new melon in the coming season, and especially in the irrigated districts. Our supply of seed is limited. We cannot supply more than five pounds to each customer. We offer the seed while it lasts at the following prices: Ptk., 10c; oz., 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., 50c;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 90c; 1 lb., \$1.75; 5 lbs. @ \$1.50 per lb.



## NETTED ROCK CANTALOUPE

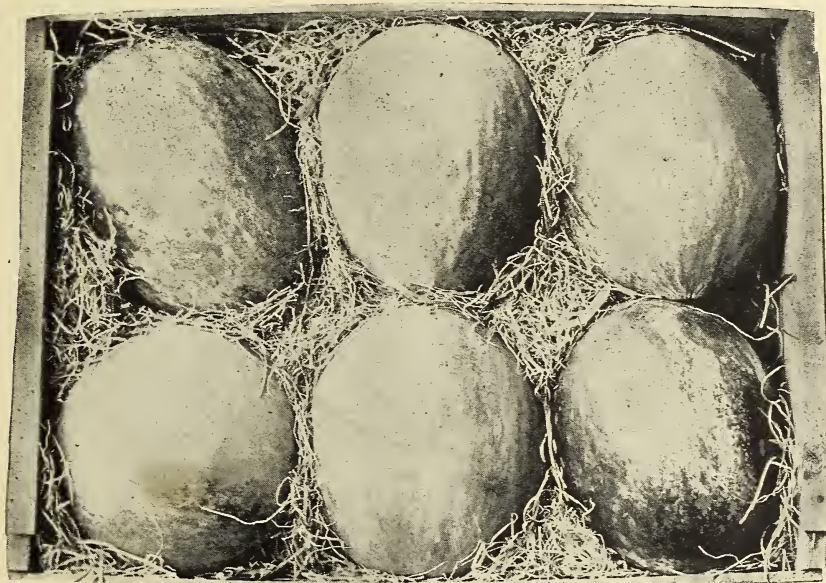
This popular strain needs no introduction. It has been planted in many important growing districts for the past ten years and has given general satisfaction.

It is one of the best strains of the Pollock type. The general description of the Eden Gem covers the Netted Rock except that it is a few days later; otherwise it would take an expert to show any marked difference in the two strains.

Many growers have planted this strain for years and will plant nothing else. For this reason we grow a limited acreage of it; otherwise we would drop it for the Eden Gem, which is our favorite of the two strains.

Our seed was grown from the originator's stock and carefully selected. We claim, without fear of contradiction, that we have as pure stock of this strain as there is in existence, which we offer as follows:

Per oz., 15c; per lb., \$1.50; 10 to 25 lbs. @ \$1.25 per lb.



## GAUGER'S HONEY DEW MELON

This newest production in the melon line has brought higher prices than any melon yet introduced. During the season 1915 only three cars were marketed; the results are stated in Mr. Gauger's letter. The past season a limited acreage was planted in California, Arizona and New Mexico, and a much larger acreage in Colorado. While excellent prices were obtained throughout the season, the best returns were received from the Colorado shipments, at the close of the cantaloupe season.

The Honey Dew is not a competitor of the cantaloupe, and will not take the place of the cantaloupe, as it is on the casaba order, and is really a fall and winter melon. However, we do believe it is far superior to any casaba yet introduced and will take the lead of that class of melons.

### THE ORIGINATOR'S HISTORY OF THE HONEY DEW.

The original seed of this new melon was secured from a melon shipped from Africa to New York City. This seed was planted at Rocky Ford, Colo., and crossed with the genuine, original "Rocky Ford" cantaloupe by pollenization. The following season this hybrid seed was again crossed with the Im-



**GAUGER'S HONEY DEW MELON—Continued.**

proved Hybrid Casaba. Seed enough was obtained from this cross to plant one and one-half acres in 1915, from which I shipped three cars, aggregating 1,175 crates, which were shipped to Chicago. After paying freight, icing charges and commissions the three cars netted me \$3,719. After deducting the price of the crates I still had \$3,600 net from the one and one-half acres, or \$2,400 per acre.

I named the melon "Honey Dew" for several reasons: It is as sweet as honey and has the mingling of several flavors—pineapple, banana and vanilla predominating.

The average size of the melon is six inches in diameter and seven to eight inches in length, weighs five to six pounds. The skin is smooth with an occasional net, is a creamy yellow when ripe. The flesh is an emerald green, very thick, melting and fine-grained; can be eaten to the extreme rind. The seed cavity is very small, the rind impervious to water, the melon does not shrink in weight, is not easily bruised and is a splendid shipper.

It matures about ten days later than the Rocky Ford strains and is very prolific. Yields at the rate of 8,000 to 10,000 melons per acre. The melon slips from the vine when ripe and will keep for several weeks. The late-maturing ones may be kept until Christmas.

June 5, 1916.

J. E. GAUGER, Swink, Colo.

Plant so that it will mature about the time of the first frost. We urge every grower to try this new melon, if only a few hills for their own use.

Do not plant near Cantaloupes or casabas, as it shows a tendency to mix badly with both.

Price—Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., 50c;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 75c; lb., \$1.25.

Grand Junction, Colorado, Nov. 6, 1917.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

This is to certify that I spent six weeks at Rocky Ford, Colorado, this season, selecting cantaloupe seed for several large distributors operating in the California cantaloupe districts. After a careful survey of the situation and examination of all of the best seed fields in the district, I placed my orders with Garwood & Woodside. I found their Salmon Tint Cantaloupes very uniform in size and well netted, almost entirely free of the undesirable slick rib and very uniform in color of flesh.

Their Imperial Gem was especially fine. Any one desiring an extremely early melon will do well to give them a trial.

As to their business integrity, I have known Mr. Garwood for twenty years and have always found him thoroughly trustworthy. I was with Mr. Woodside every day during my stay at Rocky Ford and saw him filling many orders received by wire and mail, and found him using the same care in selection and in getting out these orders as he did in filling the orders for firms whose representatives were on the ground.

Very respectfully,

A. OZBUN.

**ABOUT VARIETIES**

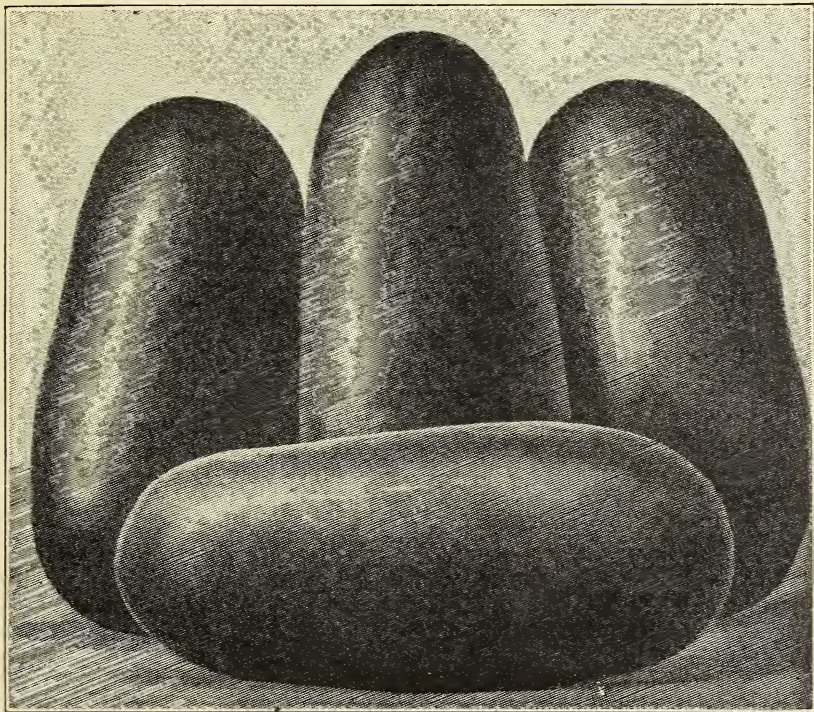
There are so many different strains of the Rocky Ford Cantaloupe advertised by various seedsmen and commercial growers that the grower of limited experience is so confused by the numberless names and varieties that he hardly knows what variety to order. To those so situated we would say that we have carefully observed and tested the merits of the different strains, and offer herewith the strains which in our judgment are the very best and the most profitable for all sections of the country.

There is good seed offered under other names, but the varieties are so similar to those that we offer that an expert cannot detect any material difference. We again state that there is nothing better yet produced in cantaloupes than the tested strains we list.

## WATERMELONS

The following varieties of watermelons we consider the best introduced to date.

The "Kleckley" as a home-market melon and the "Tom Watson" as a shipper cannot be beat where quality is considered.



### IMPROVED KLECKLEY SWEETS

The "sweetest of all" watermelons, the best home and nearby market melon yet introduced.

This splendid variety is the finest-flavored melon introduced in recent years. No other melon has ever attained such popularity for home use and nearby markets. As originally introduced, the rind was too thin and tender to admit shipping, but by careful selection this defect has been largely overcome.

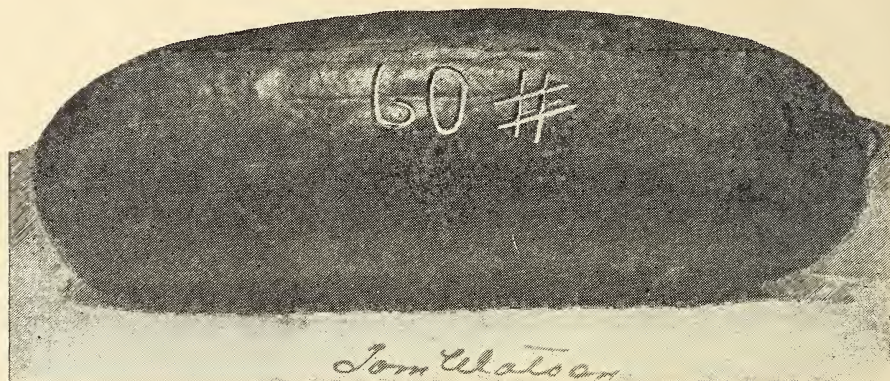
The Improved Kleckley Sweet is the Rocky Ford strain.

In this new strain now offered there is developed a melon with a shell hard enough to carry to market, having been carefully selected for a series of years for this result. The rind is not thick, but the skin is so hard and tough that it resists the jolts and jars of travel to a remarkable degree, and at the present time is the favorite shipping melon with our Colorado growers, and rapidly growing in favor in other sections of the country. The melons grow 18 to 24 inches in length, 10 to 12 inches through, averaging about 25 pounds in weight, oblong in form, with very dark green skin, flesh deep scarlet red, with solid heart, stringless, with few seeds, set near the rind. The flavor is unexcelled. Don't fail to plant this splendid melon for home use or nearby markets.

Select stock seed true to name (saved from the largest and best melons) —  
Per oz., 10c; per  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb., 30c;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., 55c; per lb., \$1.00; 10 to 25 lbs. @ 90c.



## TOM WATSON WATERMELON



A new watermelon, combining the eating qualities of the "Kleckley" and the shipping qualities of the "Alabama Sweet."

Our extra selected seed of the "Tom Watson" was grown by one of the most noted melon seed growers of the South. It was selected from the choicest, earliest ripe melons, weighing from thirty pounds up. No better or purer strain can be had; in fact, it is select stock seed. It is guaranteed to be true to name and of standard germination.

Our supply of this grade is limited. We offer it while it lasts as follows: Per oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 35c; ½ lb., 60c; per lb., \$1.00; 10 to 25 lbs. @ 90c per lb.

Associations and others using larger quantities, write for special prices.

## SUPERIOR CUCUMBER SEED

We list but one variety, which in our judgment is the most profitable market cucumber for all sections of the country.



## KLONDIKE CUCUMBER

This splendid shipping cucumber is an improved strain of the White Spine type. It is a very attractive dark green variety with a green that stays for days after being picked and shipped. The cucumbers are from 7 to 8 inches long, 2 to 2½ inches in diameter, very regular in size and shape, very crisp and unsurpassed for slicing. It makes excellent pickles when young. The vines are extremely vigorous and productive and resist blight better than other long sorts. A great favorite in Florida and other sections of the South for shipping to northern markets. For market gardeners it is the most profitable variety known today.

Price—Per pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 35c; ½ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.00; 5 to 25 lbs. @ 90c per lb.



## ABOUT SEED

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### Quality and Not Price Should Be the Guide in Buying Seed

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One of the most important factors in the production of a good marketable crop of cantaloupes is **GOOD SEED**. The soil and all other conditions may be ideal, but with poor or mixed seed, time, labor and profits are lost. Therefore, buy the best seed you can get, regardless of the cost.

Seed saved from fields grown from carefully selected stock seed is the best. The seed should be harvested from healthy vines during the early part of the season, from fully matured melons of perfect shape, uniform size, heavily netted, thick-fleshed with small seed cavity. Seed so selected cannot be sold at a low price. During the period when seed should be saved cantaloupes generally bring the highest prices on the markets. On an average a standard crate of cantaloupes will cut about a pound of seed. Many melons that will do to ship cannot be saved for seed, for in the best-bred strains and under the best conditions the melons will vary in size, form and density of netting. From the best seed procurable such varieties will be found, but the better the grade the smaller the per cent of irregularities.

The color of the flesh in the different strains will show variations. Therefore do not expect the green-fleshed varieties to all run green-fleshed, nor the salmon-fleshed varieties to all run salmon-fleshed. This is not possible where the different strains are grown in the same district.

Many failures or partial failures to produce a good crop of marketable melons are not due to poor seed; the size of the melon, heavy netting, size of the seed cavity and flavor will vary on different classes of soil. A very wet or extremely dry season has a like effect. Cantaloupes planted on newly broken alfalfa, clover or similar sods which has a tendency to make a rank growth of vines, generally grow over-size, are not so well netted, the flesh not so firm and the flavor not nearly so good as where grown on suitable soil that does not produce so rank a growth of vines. Our experience has been that the second or third year's sod produces melons more uniform in size, netting and flavor than the newly broken alfalfa land.

Unfavorable climatic conditions that may either retard or cause an abnormal growth of vines has a marked influence on the size and the quality of the melons. The same may be said of plant diseases, insect pests and poor or improper methods of cultivation. These are some of the conditions that **GOOD SEED WILL NOT OVERCOME**. Every grower, to make a success, must study these conditions and do his best to overcome them. The first few crates marketed pays the cost of the seed.

We have known of growers buying inferior seed and losing practically their entire crop as the result of their "penny-wise, pound-foolish" policy.

## Cultural and Harvesting Directions

The cantaloupe thrives best on a well-drained sandy loam soil. Alfalfa sod, plowed under in the fall, has shown the best results in the West and Southwest, frequently doubling the yield. Clover sod in sections where it is grown, and cow peas in the South have shown like results. Well-rotted barnyard manure has generally given better results than commercial fertilizers. The cantaloupe seems to produce better on a medium fertile soil. If too much fertilizer is used the vines grow very rank and the melons are likely to be over-sized and poorly netted, the flesh coarse and of poor quality. If planted on poor soil the melons are under-sized and yield generally light. The size of the melon is undoubtedly governed by the fertility of the soil as well as by climatic conditions. Crop rotation is essential to retain the necessary plant food, and is a safeguard against disease, infected soil and insect pests.

In preparing the soil, ever bear in mind that the cantaloupe should be planted and cultivated as a garden crop rather than a field crop, as IT WILL NOT RESPOND readily to the rough treatment usually given to general field crops. The grower will be well repaid for the extra labor and time consumed in the thorough preparation of the soil.

Select, if possible, suitable land, sloping to the south or east. Such land warms up quickly in the early spring, and is preferable where an early crop is desired.

Clean up and burn all weeds and trash that will not plow under and decay rapidly. If plowing is done in the fall, plow from 8 to 10 inches in depth; if in the spring, plow only as deep as the land has been plowed before. When plowing under alfalfa and like crops, fall plowing is the best, and under most conditions, shows best results. In irrigated districts, if the land is dry, irrigate by flooding before plowing, using care not to plow while land is too wet, nor yet too dry; for either will prevent reducing the soil to the mellow, ashy condition so essential to the best results and the easy cultivation of the crop. If the land was in cultivation the preceding year, disking is very beneficial, as it not only mixes any compost or manure that may have been applied, but insures a deep pulverized seed bed.

The land should be prepared and allowed to settle a few days before planting. If the land is to be cultivated both ways, mark off in rows 5 to 6 feet apart each way. If crop is to be grown by irrigation, select slope of the land so that it can be irrigated without washing or flooding.

Do not plant near any other vine crop. Do not plant more than two or three seasons in succession on the same soil. Plant as soon as danger of frost is past.

Until recent years the planting was all done with the hoe in this district, but at this time many of our growers use the hand corn planter of the rotary type, filling the holes in the plate with lead or babbit metal and reboring until the proper size holes have been obtained; regulating so as to drop 8 to 12 seeds. A block is attached to the blades to regulate the depth of planting. Others prefer the drill system, using either the hand or the horse drill. Where small or medium acreage is planted we advocate the use of the hoe as the surest and safest method of planting to secure a uniform stand. Plant about a dozen seeds to the hill; cover about 1 inch to 1½ inches deep with fine, moist soil. When the seed is covered, if the soil is loose and not liable to bake, firm lightly with the back of hoe. The greatest care should be used in planting to secure a good stand.

Before the plants are quite up rake the surface of the hills lightly with a garden rake to remove any crust that may retard development of the tender plants. If the crust is not removed a poor stand will result. As soon as the plants are up nicely hoe lightly around the hills, taking care not to disturb the tender roots, drawing fine, moist soil about the plants. Care must be taken not to cover the leaves. Hoe in this manner several times before the plants begin to vine—the oftener the better. Do not hoe or handle the plants when wet. Give frequent shallow cultivation as long as possible to get between the rows without disturbing the vines or roots. Keep a fine dust mulch to aid in retaining the moisture. The cantaloupe, to produce the best results, should have a continuous, healthy growth. The slightest check or setback in the growth will retard the early development and reduce the yield. When the plant has from five to six leaves and danger from beetles is past, thin to one to three plants to a hill. If drilled, thin to one plant about two feet apart. Thinning should be governed by the distance between the hills and strength of the soil. If the plants are left too thick on rather poor soil, many of the melons will likely be small; on the other hand, if thinned too closely on rich soil, over-sized melons will be the result.

Before the crop is ready to move every preparation should be made for quick and economical handling. Have ample packing houses or sheds at the most convenient place for the handling of the melons. Construct not only to provide shelter and shade, but also to have plenty of ventilation with the sorting and packing bins or tables to the north side.

Growers with a large acreage follow the pickers with a wagon and extra picking bags or boxes, which when filled, are placed upon the wagon and an empty one taken. When the wagon is taken to the packing shed another takes its place. Smaller growers usually use sleds drawn by one or two horses as may be necessary.

A liberal supply of sacks for picking should be provided. The ordinary two-bushel grain sack, with a small ring stapled close to the open end and another about six inches from the other end, connected by a broad canvas strap about a foot in length, with a snap in each end, has proved satisfactory. Have a good supply of crates nicely made up and stored out of the sun and dust. Have sufficient help engaged. If possible have at least one experienced picker and packer.

Before the melons begin to ripen go through the field and carefully move vines, making stepping places two and one-half to three feet apart for the pickers. Tramping on the vines or in any way bruising them not only shortens the harvest, but will cause the melons to ripen prematurely and be of inferior quality.

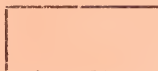
The picking should start early in the morning while the melons are cool, yet, in case the vines are wet from heavy dews or rains, it is not advisable to start picking before vines are fairly dry, as tramping and handling when wet is injurious to the vines, and melons picked

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(Write names on back)





## Cultural and Harvesting Directions—Continued

and handled while wet lose much of their fine appearance, being more or less covered with mud and the netting becomes badly ruffled.

The cantaloupe begins ripening on the inside. When the ripening process begins it requires some experience to tell from the outward appearance when it is ready to pick, the change being so slight that the inexperienced will scarcely detect it. The skin between the netting gradually assumes a peculiar gray cast; the netting becomes more prominent and of a silvery whitish color. On close examination a slight crack about the stem will be found, and with a little pressure on the stem with the thumb or forefinger, it should part or slip from the melon, without breaking the stem or melon, leaving a smooth, natural cup where detached. When picked at this, the proper stage, the melon has its natural sweetness and flavor, and if carefully handled, with proper refrigeration and good transportation service, will carry to most any market in first-class condition. The stem will not slip from a green melon but will break or force a piece out of the melon, and if picked in this manner are likely to be of inferior quality, without flavor, and show up in a wilted, spongy condition on the market.

Where shipping a great distance as from the Imperial Valley in California, after the season has advanced ten days to two weeks, many of the growers pick on the half slip or break; however, this is a dangerous practice unless carefully done by experienced pickers and disastrous results will follow.

Melons picked while cool and kept cool will hold up far better in shipping than if picked in the heat of the day. After the first few days pick over the field carefully at least twice a day and you will have but few over-ripe melons. All matured melons, whether shippers or not, should be removed from the vines and taken out of the field.

Throw into the cull pile all melons over-ripe, green, over-sized, under-sized, irregular in shape, all poorly netted melons and any that may be soft or bruised. The sorter should carefully place the good melons, according to the grades and degree of ripeness, in padded packing bins or canvas troughs built so that the packers can reach them easily.

Pack the melons by color as nearly as possible. Crate the riper ones to themselves and ship to nearby markets. Do not put up inferior, soft, over-ripe or green melons under any circumstances, as they rarely bring transportation charges.

In packing, the crates should be placed parallel with the bin on a stand with the end farthest away from the packer elevated about six inches. The ends of the crates should be supported so that the slats may be sprung in the middle. Begin at the lower end of the crate by placing three melons lengthwise with the crate across the lower end with the blossom end towards end of crate. Continue packing in rows of three across the crate until there are fifteen melons in bottom layer. The middle and top layers are packed likewise. The standard crate when filled should contain forty-five melons, all of which should be packed lengthwise with the crate, and fit snugly, bulging the slats slightly (but not tight enough to bruise), as they always shrink considerably before reaching market. The size and pack should be uniform. When packing is properly done all sides should be equally attractive and symmetrical. When the crate is packed and nailed lay in a cool place on one side. A crate should never stand on end because of the excessive weight on the lower melons.

Under the most perfect conditions melons vary in size usually designated as Jumbos Standards, and Ponies, and in order to make a uniform pack, crates to fit the different size melons are necessary. The following sizes are most generally used. All slats being  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length. Other dimensions before crates made up as follows: Standards ends  $12 \times 12$  inches. Pony ends  $11 \times 11$  inches. Jumbo flat  $5 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Large Standard flat  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Regular Standard flat  $4 \times 12$  inches. The Standard packs are 45 and 36 melons. Pony packs 54 and 45, flats 12 to 15 melons.

In order to have uniform loading and substantial packing and bracing in shipping in car lots, it is necessary to have all slats of one length, and that the crates be carefully made. The best crate material is the white pine. Melons packed in a clean, bright, well made crate, neatly labeled, will bring much better prices on the market than the same grade of melons packed in an unattractive package.

All wagons should be provided with springs. A wide flat rack to avoid piling one crate on top of another is advisable. Always lay the crates flat. If necessary to stack up, see that one crate is placed squarely upon another to avoid bruising. Cover the load to protect from heat and dust, but elevate the cover to permit the air to circulate under it. Handle the crates carefully without jarring, always bearing in mind that careless, rough handling will bruise the fruit and the grower is the loser.

**BY THE ROCKY FORD CANTALOUPE SEED GROWERS' CO.**

**Rocky Ford, Colorado.**

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